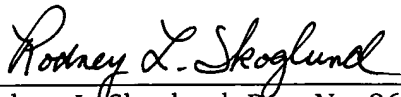


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The amendments presented hereinabove have been made in order to eliminate multiple dependency of some of the claims or to provide some of the claims with language more in accord with U.S. practice. One new claim, *i.e.*, claim 19, has been added, but it simply provides subject matter previously claimed in an earlier, now amended claim, in light of U.S. practice. Therefore, none of the amendments to the claims have been made for any reason relating to patentability and are not believed to narrow the scope of the invention in any manner. As these amendments do not add new subject matter, it is respectfully requested that they be entered. Furthermore, a Notice of Allowance of claims 1 – 19 is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner care to discuss any of the foregoing in greater detail, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Although the Applicants have added new depend claim 19, the total number of claims remains less than 20. Consequently, no additional fees that would have been associated with the addition of these claims are believed due. Nonetheless, in the event that a fee required for the filing of this document is missing or insufficient, the undersigned attorney hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-0987.

Respectfully submitted,



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